



EPA Set to Conduct Further Assessment of Property at the Niagara Falls Boulevard Site, Niagara Falls, New York

Community Update

May 2016

EPA encourages public participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the Site, please contact one of the following:

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SITE BACKGROUND

On May 24, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will begin field activities on two parcels of property located at Niagara Falls Boulevard, Niagara Falls, NY. The property consists of a bowling alley and a building supply center. The properties are bordered to the north by a wooded area; east by a church; to the south by Niagara Falls Boulevard beyond which is a residential area; and to the west by a hotel and residential area.

The U.S. Department of Energy conducted an aerial radiological survey of the Niagara Region and found some properties with low levels of radioactive materials. It is believed that in the early 1960's slag from former industrial facilities were used as fill materials on both properties prior to paving. The materials contain technically enhanced natural-occurring low levels of radioactive materials.

ASSESSMENT

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) in 2013 conducted a survey of those properties and then referred the sites for further investigation to EPA.

EPA Remedial Program conducted a series of tests at the property starting in December of 2013 through May 2014. This preliminary assessment concluded that the site did not meet the minimum criteria to be eligible for the inclusion on the EPA National Priorities List (NPL) for remediation. However, it was determined that radiological fill material was located beneath the parking lot. It was decided that EPA would further assess the site to determine if an action under the Removal Program was warranted.

In July-August 2015, EPA continued to assess the property via gamma survey and soil sampling activities. It was discovered that several areas within the building supply center exhibited elevated gamma readings. These unoccupied areas appear to be portions of the building that were additions to the original structure and constructed on top of the asphalt parking lot.

In March of 2016, EPA conducted an additional series of soil tests to delineate the contamination under the identified areas within the building supply center.

EPA has determined from the assessment results that a removal action is warranted. The initial activity will focus on clearing vegetation from the wooded lot behind the bowling alley and building supply center. This area will be assessed for elevated gamma radiation and utilized as work areas for the removal action. The second activity will be removing material from the identified areas of the building supply center. This material will be replaced with clean fill and a new concrete floor will be installed. Eventually, the material beneath the asphalt parking lot will be removed, replaced with clean fill and repaved.

EPA will continue to inform the public of all decisions made pertaining to the site.